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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 4252-83

9 June 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) Staffers,
8 June 1983

1. Subject and Participants. The briefing for Arch Roberts and William Fite of the HFAC staff, at their request, covered recent nuclear developments in India, Pakistan, and Libya. [REDACTED] DDI/NESA, provided details concerning the issue of spare parts for the US-built reactors at Tarapur. I introduced David Low who also attended the briefing.

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2. Substance. On India, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The nuclear program as a whole was still suffering from delays and poor performance. [REDACTED] observed that the possibility of "something happening at Tarapur was high." I said that in Pakistan the reprocessing facility was now believed to require more work before it could begin operations. For uranium enrichment, I noted that efforts continued to solve substantial centrifuge/process problems at the Kahuta facility and that assistance had been provided by the Chinese to this end. I concluded that the Pakistanis probably would not be able to acquire either plutonium or highly enriched uranium sufficient for a first nuclear device/test before early 1985. Libya was covered only in passing and I mentioned its interest in acquiring a UF-6 facility from Belgium.

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3. Results. No notes were taken by either Roberts or Fite, both of whom expressed their appreciation for the briefing. It was clear that the issue of greatest interest to them was whether or not a way should be found for the US to ship spare parts to India in conjunction with ensuring the continuing safety of the Tarapur reactors. The HFAC as a whole probably will be taking up the matter in the near future. Roberts' parting words to me were, "see you on the Hill."

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Assistant National Intelligence Officer at Large

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